

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 10-15, with the following amended paragraph:

Components outside the cabinet may communicate via a cabled communications link through the bridge ~~40~~ 48, such as the card reader 58a, the video light panel 56a and any other gaming components such as 54a. The exterior or interior gaming components may in turn communicate with other devices that are shared among gaming systems, such as video camera 62. In addition, external devices may communicate by being cabled to an interior device, such as the external storage 42 being linked with the gaming component 52a.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-24, with the following amended paragraph:

In this manner, the gaming systems can be reconfigured easily and with minimum interruption of the gaming experience for the player. For example, one of the gaming components may be a slot machine interface board (SMIB). The SMIB may communicate across a network with a slot accounting system that provides ticket validation. Once the validation is received at the SMIB, in this example gaming component 52b, the print commands could be forwarded to the printer ~~34b~~ 16b without having to involve the gaming processing unit 46b.